



HISTORIC SMITHFIELD PLANTATION
PRESERVATION VIRGINIA MONTGOMERY BRANCH



**PRESERVATION
VIRGINIA**

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For Immediate Release

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**"An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia"
Panel Exhibition at Historic Smithfield**



Blacksburg, Virginia --- Historic Smithfield Plantation is pleased to announce the panel exhibition of "*An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia*" on display May 16 – May 30, 2011. The panel exhibition is a small traveling exhibit comprised of image and interpretive text.

The exhibition is displayed prominently throughout the House, telling the story of the Civil War and its effect on the people of Virginia. Themes of the panels are Why War?; Speed or Strength?; The Confederate Interior; The Campaigns; Who Freed the Slaves?; Refugees; Men of Color to Arms?; The Confederate Frontier; The First Modern War?; and Did the Civil War End at Appomattox?. April Danner, Head Interpreter and Education Outreach Coordinator, and member of the Montgomery County Sesquicentennial Committee, was instrumental to bringing the exhibition to Historic Smithfield. "It makes you feel that you are part of the story" said Danner.

This exhibition is made possible by The Virginia Historical Society in partnership with The Virginia Sesquicentennial of The American Civil War Commission and The Endowment for the Humanities. For more information on "*An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia*", visit www.vahistorical.org or www.virginiacivilwar.org.

About Historic Smithfield

"On the eve of the American Revolution, the Virginia backcountry was a place of colliding cultures, clashing ideals, and physical danger. Wolves howled at night, panthers roamed the forest. Europeans and native Shawnee and Cherokee vied for the same fertile farmlands, often erupting into murderous violence. It was here, at the eastern continental divide, the literal edge of European/American civilization, that the leader of westward expansion and Revolutionary War patriot William Preston established Smithfield Plantation. In a land of log cabins and physical hardship, Smithfield provided a haven of aristocratic elegance and became the social and political center of the country." More than 225 years later, this house still stands as a cultural center to the surrounding community.

Historic Smithfield is owned by Preservation Virginia (APVA Preservation Virginia), which was founded in 1889 as the first statewide preservation organization in the United States. Since then, the Preservation Virginia has saved and/or restored more than 50 historic properties. Currently Preservation Virginia owns or administers properties that range from historically furnished house museums and civic buildings to cemeteries and gravesites. The local Montgomery Branch of Preservation Virginia manages the daily operations of Historic Smithfield. For more information or to become a member, visit www.smithfieldplantation.org or call 540.231.3947.

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Historic Smithfield and the Museum Store are open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10 – 5 pm. House tours are \$7 for adults, \$4 for students (12 yrs – college) and \$3 for children 5 – 12 years of age. House tours are given on each open day every half hour until 4 pm. Proceeds from the Museum Store and events are used to support the operational budget and preservation of Historic Smithfield, located adjacent to Virginia Tech's campus off Duck Pond Drive.

For more information, visit our website at www.smithfieldplantation.org or call 540.231.3947.